



## ROCKDALE COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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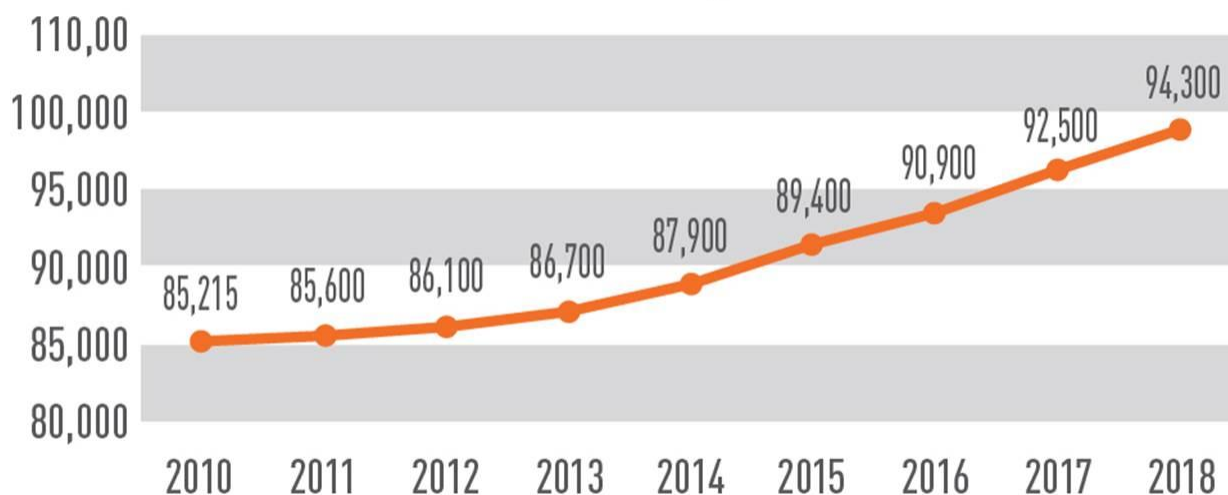
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### **Rockdale County Continues Steady Growth by Adding 1,800 Residents in Past Year, According to ARC's 2018 Population Estimates**

(CONYERS, GA, August 27, 2018) – Rockdale County added 1,800 people over the past year, its largest single-year growth since the Great Recession ended in 2010. The increase brings the county's total population to 94,300 according to **population estimates released today by the Atlanta Regional Commission**.

"We are proud to see Rockdale County growing," Chairman Oz Nesbitt, Sr. said. "We take pride in our community growing to become a stronger economic competitor located just east of Atlanta, being able to offer more jobs, as well as enjoyable art, entertainment and recreational opportunities which attract more people. Our vision is to continue to see growth in the coming years through improving quality of life, services, and connectivity."

### Rockdale County 2010 – 2018



*Source: Atlanta Regional Commission*

Rockdale has seen steady population growth in recent years. The county grew by 1,600 people between April 2016 and April 2017 and by 1,500 the previous year. Rockdale has added more than 9,000 people since 2010.

Overall, the 10-county Atlanta region added 75,800 people in the past year, the second-largest increase since the Great Recession formally ended in 2010. The region's growth was down slightly from a year earlier, when population increased by 78,300. The Atlanta region is now home to 4,555,900 people, more than that of 25 states.

Jobs growth fueled the region's population boom. The 29-county metropolitan statistical area (MSA), as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, added more than 41,000 jobs between April 2017 and April 2018, ranking 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

"The Atlanta region had strong growth over the last few years as we emerged from the Great Recession," said Mike Carnathan, manager of ARC's Research & Analytics Group. "People are moving here because jobs are plentiful and because metro Atlanta offers a great quality of life."

Each of the Atlanta region's 10 core counties experienced population growth during the past year. Fulton County added the most people (17,570), followed by Gwinnett County (16,700), and DeKalb County (10,630).

The city of Atlanta, which lost population between 1970 and 2000, is growing again amid a boom in multifamily housing. The city added more than 10,000 residents in the past year, compared to 9,700 the year before, and has grown by 39,000 since 2010.

"ARC's annual population estimates are a great tool to help local governments plan for the future and focus the region's attention on key issues critical to our quality of life, like housing affordability and transportation," said Kerry Armstrong, ARC Board Chair.

For more details about ARC's population estimates, check out **ARC's latest Regional Snapshot**.

### **Metro Atlanta Growth Since 2010**

	2010	2017	2018	Change 2017-2018	Average Annual Change 2010-2018
Atlanta Region	4,107,750	4,480,100	4,555,900	75,800	56,019
Cherokee	214,346	247,400	254,500	7,100	5,019
Clayton	259,424	275,300	279,400	4,100	2,497
Cobb	688,078	750,300	758,300	8,000	8,778
DeKalb	691,893	733,900	744,530	10,630	6,580

Douglas	132,403	140,900	142,800	1,900	1,300
Fayette	106,567	114,000	116,200	2,200	1,204
Fulton	920,581	1,002,800	1,020,370	17,570	12,474
Gwinnett	805,321	894,000	910,700	16,700	13,172
Henry	203,922	229,000	234,800	5,800	3,860
Rockdale	85,215	92,500	94,300	1,800	1,136
City of Atlanta	420,003	449,500	459,600	10,100	4,950

*ARC's population estimates for major jurisdictions are developed using a combination of data sources including building permit data, a demographic accounting equation generated by Carl Vinson Institute of the University of Georgia, school enrollment trends, occupancy rates and more. The base for each successive year's estimates is the previous year's estimate, with the starting point for the decade's intracensal estimates the decennial Census count.*

*Note: ARC provides population estimates for the 10-county region and city of Atlanta. The agency does not develop estimates for any other city in the region.*

*The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is the official planning agency for the 10-county Atlanta Region, including Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale counties as well as the City of Atlanta and 73 other cities. The Atlanta Regional Commission serves as a catalyst for regional progress by focusing leadership, attention and planning resources on key regional issues.*

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